



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of managing communications between service components in a computing environment, the computing environment comprising an interconnection system and a plurality of interconnected-processing nodes interconnected by the interconnection system, each of the service components having a respective identity and being programmed on at least a respective one of the processing nodes, the method comprising:

based on the identity of at least one of the service components, establishing access-control logic restricting inter-node communication involving the at least one service component;

providing at least a portion of the access-control logic to the interconnection system in response to an attempted inter-node communication involving the at least one service component; and

applying the access-control logic provided to the interconnection system, to block the attempted an-inter-node communication involving the at least one service component.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the access-control logic comprises:

establishing a rule indicating whether to allow a communication involving the at least one service component; and

translating the rule into the access-control logic.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein:

establishing a rule indicating whether to allow a communication involving the at least one service component comprises establishing a rule indicating whether to allow a communication with a first service component programmed on a first processing node in the computing environment.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein:

establishing a rule indicating whether to allow a communication involving the at least one service component comprises establishing a rule indicating whether to allow a communication between (i) a first service component programmed on a first processing node in the computing environment and (ii) a second service component programmed on a second processing node in the computing environment.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the at least one service component resides at at least one service-access-point in the computing environment, and wherein translating the rule into the access-control logic comprises mapping the rule into packet-filter logic associated with ~~keyed to~~ the at least one service-access-point.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the at least one service-access-point comprises an IP address of the first processing node.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the first processing node is programmed to associate a first transport port with the first service component, and wherein the at least one service-access-point further comprises the first transport port.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein applying the access-control logic to block an inter-node communication involving the at least one service component comprises:

detecting an attempted inter-node communication involving the at least one service component;

based on the access-control logic, making a determination that the attempted inter-node communication should be blocked; and

in response to the determination, blocking the attempted inter-node communication.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least two processing nodes of the plurality of interconnected processing nodes run different operating systems.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least two processing nodes of the plurality of interconnected processing nodes support different processor instructions sets.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the computing environment is a cluster-based computing environment.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the computing environment is a public computing platform.

13. (Currently amended) A method of managing communications between service components in a computing environment, the computing environment comprising an

interconnection system and a plurality of interconnected-processing nodes interconnected by the interconnection system, each of the service components having a respective identity and being programmed on at least a respective one of the processing nodes, the method comprising:

based on the identity of at least one of the service components, establishing at least one access-control rule indicating whether to allow at least one communication involving the at least one service component;

translating the at least one access-control rule into access-control logic;

detecting, at the interconnection system, an attempted inter-node communication between service components;

providing at least a portion of the access-control logic to the interconnection system in response to the attempted inter-node communication between service components;

based on the access-control logic provided to the interconnection system, determining that the attempted inter-node communication between service components is not allowed; and responsively blocking the attempted inter-node communication.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13,12, wherein the access-control logic comprises packet-filter logic.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13,12, wherein:
each of the service components is designated by a respective service-access-point (SAP) in the computing environment, and each processing node has a respective SAP as well; and
the access-control logic comprises packet-filter logic associated with ~~keyed to~~ at least one SAP in the computing environment.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the respective SAP of each service component comprises an IP address of the respective processing node on which the service component is programmed, and wherein the access-control logic comprises packet-filter logic associated with ~~keyed to~~ at least one such IP address.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein at least one of the SAPs of a service component further comprises a port selected from the group consisting of a TCP port and a UDP port, and wherein the packet-filter logic is further associated with ~~keyed to~~ at least one such port.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13,
wherein the communications between service components are packet-based; and
wherein the access-control logic comprises packet-filter logic associated with ~~keyed to~~ a combination of at least (i) a packet transport protocol, (ii) a source address in the computing environment and (iii) a destination address in the computing environment.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein translating the at least one access-control rule into access-control logic comprises:

mapping the at least one access-control rule to packet-filter logic associated with ~~keyed to~~ at least one service-access-point in the computing environment.

20. (Original) The method of claim 13,
wherein at least a given one of the processing nodes includes a firewall for restricting communications with the given processing node; and

translating the at least one access-control rule into access-control logic comprises provisioning the firewall of the given processing node to allow communications between at least one service component programmed on the given processing node and at least one service component programmed on another processing node.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, ~~wherein the processing nodes are interconnected by an interconnection system, and~~ wherein the interconnection system further performs at least the element of elements of (i) detecting an attempted inter-node communication and (ii) blocking the attempted inter-node communication.

22-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13-23, further comprising:
~~wherein provisioning the interconnection system with the access-control logic comprises~~
providing at least another portion of the access-control logic to pre-provisioning the interconnection system prior to detecting the attempted inter-node communication between service components.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13-23, wherein the interconnection system comprises a switch, and wherein ~~provisioning~~ providing the at least a portion of the access-control logic to the interconnection system ~~with the access-control logic~~ comprises setting up the switch to apply the access-control logic.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26,
wherein the switch comprises (i) a packet-filtering agent and ~~(i)-(ii)~~ (ii) a provisioning-interface for receiving command-line instructions to set up the packet-filtering agent, the switch being arranged to translate the command-line instructions into packet-filtering logic executable by the packet-filtering agent; and

wherein setting up the switch to apply the access-control logic comprises providing the switch, via the provisioning-interface, with command-line instructions representative of the access-control logic.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein an entity coupled external to the interconnection system performs the element of providing at least a portion of the access-control logic to the interconnection system. ~~determining that the attempted inter-node communication is not allowed.~~

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the ~~external~~ entity coupled to the interconnection system comprises a session manager.

31. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the interconnection system comprises a switch.

32. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the interconnection system comprises a router.

33. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the computing environment is a cluster-based computing environment.

34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the computing environment is a public computing platform ~~operated by a platform provider~~.

35. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the attempted inter-node communication comprises an attempted inter-node communication between antagonistic service components.

36. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the attempted inter-node communication comprises an attempted communication of a packet from a first processing node to a second processing node, and wherein blocking the attempted communication comprises dropping the packet.

37. (Currently amended) A method for managing application logic in a public computing platform, the public computing platform comprising a network of processing nodes interconnected by an interconnection system, the method comprising:

receiving specifications of at least two computer-program applications, the applications cooperatively comprising a number of application components;

loading the application components of the at least two applications onto at least two of the processing nodes of the computing platform;

providing to the interconnection system, in response to an attempted inter-node communication between the application components, at least a portion of access-control rules that define allowed communications between the application components; and

applying the access-control rules provided to the interconnection system, defining allowed communications between the application components, to restrict-block the attempted inter-node communication between the application components.

38. (Currently amended) A computing environment with communication control comprising:

an interconnection system;

a plurality of co-located processing nodes interconnected via the interconnection system;

a plurality of application components loaded onto the processing nodes, each application component having a respective service-access-point defining location of the application component in the computing environment;

logic indicating allowed inter-node communications between application components;

the logic being executable, in response to an attempted inter-node communication, to make a determination of whether the attempted inter-node communication is allowed;~~and~~

the logic being executable, in response to a determination that the attempted inter-node communication is not allowed, to block the attempted inter-node communication; and

a session manager communicatively linked with the interconnection system, wherein the logic is located, at least in part, in the session manager, and wherein the session manager provides at least a portion of the logic to the interconnection system in response to the attempted inter-node communication.

39-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) The computing environment of claim 38, wherein the computing environment is a cluster-based computing environment.

43. (Original) The computing environment of claim 38, wherein the computing environment is a public-computing platform.

44. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein at least two of the co-located processing nodes run different operating systems.

45. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein at least two of the co-located processing nodes support different processor instructions sets.

46. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

detecting, at the interconnection system, the inter-node communication involving the at least one service component, and responsively sending to an entity coupled to the interconnection system, a signal to request the at least a portion of the access-control logic be provided to the interconnection system,

wherein the at least a portion of the access-control logic is provided to the interconnection system in response to the signal.

47. (New) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

sending to an entity coupled to the interconnection system, a signal to request the at least a portion of the access-control logic be provided to the interconnection system,

wherein the signal is sent in response to the interconnection system detecting the attempted inter-node communication between service components, and

wherein the at least a portion of the access-control logic is provided to the interconnection system in response to the signal.

48. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising:

detecting the inter-node communication at the interconnection system and responsively sending to an entity coupled to the interconnection system, a signal to request the at least a portion of the access-control logic be provided to the interconnection system,

wherein the at least a portion of the access-control logic is provided to the interconnection system in response to the signal.

49. (New) The computing environment of claim 38, wherein the interconnection system detects the attempted inter-node connection and responsively sends a signal to the session manager to request the at least a portion of the access-control logic be provided to the interconnection system; and

wherein the session manager provides the at least a portion of the logic to the interconnection system in response to the signal sent to the session manager.